

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03099 170839Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 170810Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3667

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3099

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS US ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AMMUNITION RESUPPLY

REF: STATE 058955

1. ALTHOUGH INFORMED BY TELEPHONE EVENING OF MARCH 16 REGARDING NATURE OF SUBJECT, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GETACHEW KIBRET SAID HE PREFERRED WAIT UNTIL MORNING OF MARCH 17 TO SEE PRESS GUIDANCE. HE HAS NOW PHONED ME WITH FOLLOWING "PRELIMINARY REACTIONS," INDICATING THAT OTHERS MAY FOLLOW AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE PMAC.

2. EPMG WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF US RESPONSE TO AMMO RESUPPLY REQUEST NOT BE REVEALED.

3. EPMG WOULD PREFER THAT USG NOT INDICATE SO SPECIFICALLY THAT IT HOPES FOR "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. GETACHEW SUGGESTED THAT FUZZIER LANGUAGE BE USED ON THIS POINT. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO SETTLE THE ERITREAN PROBLEM AND THAT THE PRESENT LANGUAGE LOOKS TOO MUCH LIKE USG PRESSURE ON THE EPMG.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION ON ATROCITIES, GETACHEW SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF ATROCITIES ALSO AROSE ON THE ERITREAN SIDE INASMUCH AS IT WAS THE ERITREANS WHO ON
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JAN. 31 HAD BEGUN FIRING AMIDST THE LARGE CIVILIAN POPULATION

OF ASMARA. HE THEREFORE CONTENDED THAT THE RESPONSE ON
THIS QUESTION SHOULD ALSO REFLECT CONCERN FOR THESE
ATROCITIES, POSSIBLY TAKING THE FORM OF AN APPEAL TO BOTH
SIDES TO AVOID ATROCITIES.
WYMAN

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NNN

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